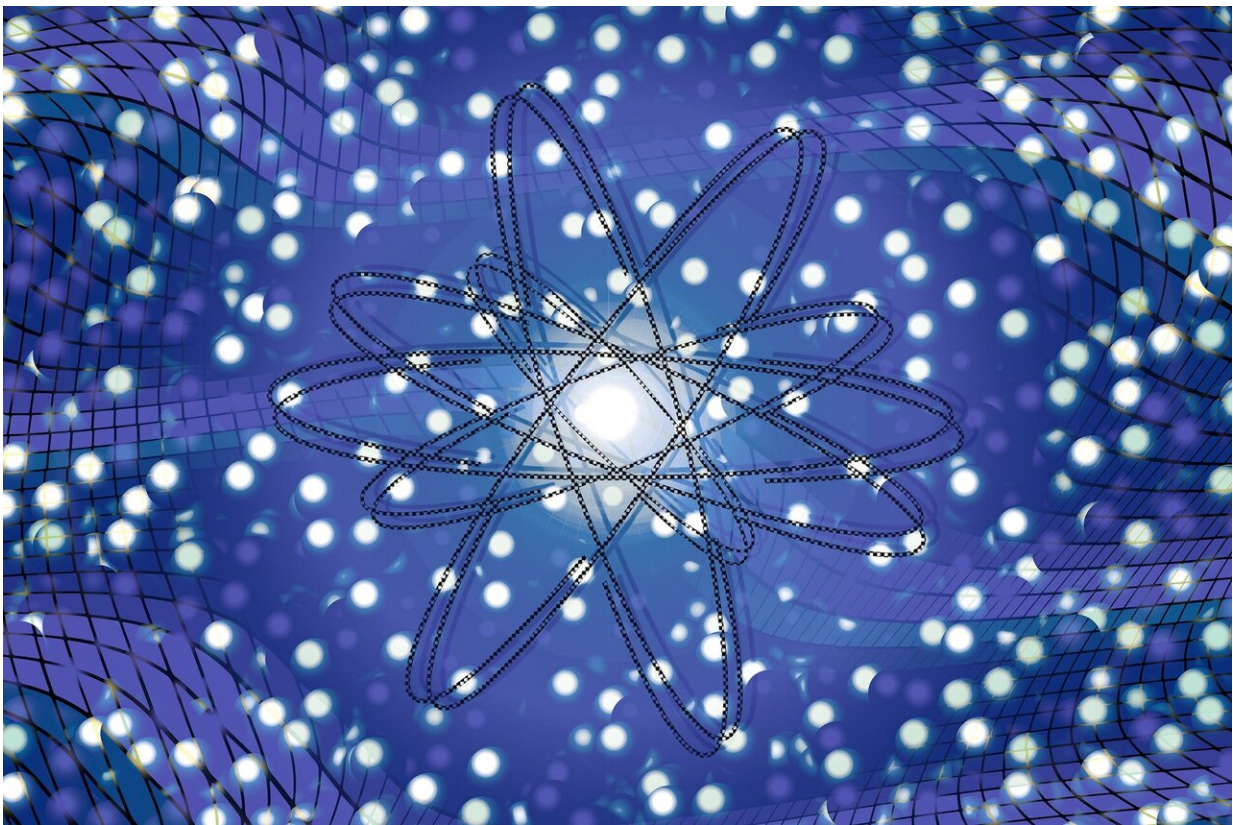


BESIII reports most precise measurements of strong-phase parameters in neutral D meson decay

June 19 2020, by Liu Jia



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The BESIII collaboration has reported the most precise measurements to date of the relative strong-phase parameters in decays of neutral D

mesons. These results are presented in two articles published in the journals *Physical Review Letters* and *Physical Review D* on June 15, respectively.

The strong-phase parameters, which result from the interactions of hadronic final states, cannot be reliably calculated in theory and must be determined experimentally. The new BESIII results reflect the difference of two strong phases of a D meson formed by a charm (c) quark and an anti-up(u-bar) quark, relative to its anti-particle, the D-bar meson, decaying to the same final state.

Among these final states, the strong-phase parameters in $K_S\pi^+\pi^-$ are exceptional, providing key inputs in the determination of some of the fundamental parameters in the standard model (SM) of particle physics. Prominent examples are the angle γ in the unitarity triangle describing the phase of the mixing of the first and third families of the quarks, and the mixing parameters describing the oscillations between neutral D and D-bar mesons.

Additionally, a [precision measurement](#) of γ provides a benchmark for tests of the SM and can be used as a probe to search for evidence of physics beyond the known standard model.

In 2009 and 2010, CLEO at the Cornell Electron Storage Ring presented the first measurements of the strong-phase parameters by using 0.82 fb⁻¹ electron-positron annihilation data. The limited precision of these parameters translates into a dominant systematic uncertainty for the measurement of γ of approximately four degrees.

In the [next decade](#), the statistical uncertainty of γ is expected to be 1.5 degrees or less, leading to measurements where the overall precision will be limited by the strong-phase inputs. Hence precision measurements of strong-phase parameters are a high priority and are critical for a range of

γ measurements.

At present, BESIII is the only running machine which can collect data at the production threshold of $D^0\bar{D}^0$ -bar meson pairs. Here, the produced D^0 and D^0 -bar [meson](#) pairs are produced in a quantum-correlated state, giving experimental access to the strong phase difference. The new results make use of 2.93 fb⁻¹ of data collected with the BESIII detector.

To better utilize data, the BESIII team explored several methods to improve the analysis by incorporating more hadronic D decays to increase statistics, extending the partial reconstruction of events to improve signal efficiency, and taking the effects of bin migration into account to reduce possible deviations of the results. These improvements are critical to provide better precision and accuracy compared to previous measurements.

Using the new BESIII results, the dominant systematic uncertainty on the value of γ can be reduced to around one degree, which is approximately a factor of three smaller than was possible with the CLEO measurements. This will ensure that the anticipated statistical improvements in the measurements of γ at the LHCb and Belle II experiments over the next decade will have a deep impact on precision tests of the standard model.

More information: M. Ablikim et al. Determination of Strong-Phase Parameters in $D\rightarrow K_S, L^0\pi^+\pi^-$, *Physical Review Letters* (2020). [DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.124.241802](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.124.241802)

M. Ablikim et al. Model-independent determination of the relative strong-phase difference between D^0 and $D^0\rightarrow K_S, L^0\pi^+\pi^-$ and its impact on the measurement of the CKM angle γ/ϕ_3 , *Physical Review D* (2020). [DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevD.101.112002](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevD.101.112002)

Provided by Chinese Academy of Sciences

Citation: BESIII reports most precise measurements of strong-phase parameters in neutral D meson decay (2020, June 19) retrieved 3 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2020-06-besiii-precise-strong-phase-parameters-neutral.html>

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